



## Wright Building Study Approved, Again

Up to \$50,000 in Community Preservation Act funds will be used to conduct a historical survey of the Wright building after Town Meeting approval Monday.

"The Wright building has been studied many times, but because it's an historical building, it needs a little different touch," said Community Preservation Committee member George Wadsworth.

"We need up to date, accurate renovation costs," added historical commission member Martha Himes.

According to Selectman Andre Martecchini, 1999 Town Meeting approved \$100,000 for renovations to alleviate handicapped accessibility issues at the Wright building, but once requests for proposals for the work came back in, the town realized it needed nearly \$500,000 to do the work. The \$100,000 was allocated to other public works projects at last year's town meeting.

Bob Doyle, Old Cove Rd, disagreed with this year's appropriation.

"Four years ago we gave \$100,000 to correct some ADA problems. We're wasting our money with this study. We could do it in-house," Doyle said.

Himes said a qualified, historic architect was necessary to look at the building and point out what was unique about it that should be preserved.

Jack Kent, Wadsworth Road, asked whether the \$50,000 would be a final figure.

**Duxbury Clipper**

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

"Does this study the whole structure in terms of ADA compliance, or just the front historic part? Will we know by next town meeting what the total cost of getting the entire building up to snuff, including maintenance costs, will be?" Kent asked.

"I hope so. I hope the board of selectmen will put together a good request for proposals and have tight numbers," Wadsworth answered.

Residents who are still concerned about the applicability of the deed restriction on the Wright building voiced opinions as well.

"We better include the probate court in our cost estimates. I caution on spending a lot of money on something that could be vetoed shortly down the road," Dan Kostreva, Elm Street, said.

"Why are we dancing around the issue? Why can't we finalize it? What will it cost to go to probate court and clear this up?" John Britten, Upland Road, asked.

"The town has to identify a use before going to court. The current court order maintains the use as a library. I don't think there will be any opposition to changing that, and I don't see any problem with it. The complaint is already prepared, but we have to identify a use before going to court," Town Counsel Robert Troy said.

Shawn Dahlen, Long Point Lane, said, "No matter what the town uses the building for, it has to be brought into compliance."

"We currently have the money in the account. We are mandated by state law to spend the money towards historic preservation. If we don't spend all of the \$50,000, the remainder goes back into the CPA general fund," said CPC Chairman Holly Morris.

**TOWN  
MEETING  
2003**